

Message Text

PAGE 01 NAIROB 04487 031309Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /064 W

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R 031220Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3168

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 4487

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT KE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KENYATTA NOMINATES EX-FOREIGN MINISTER
MUNGAI TO KENYAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

1. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER NJOROGI MUNGAI, WHO WAS
UNSEATED IN THE OCTOBER 1974 KENYAN GENERAL ELECTIONS,
HAS BEEN NOMINATED BY PRESIDENT KENYATTA TO ONE OF 12
NOMINATED SEATS IN KENYAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. MUNGAI,
49, ASSUMES THE SEAT HELD BY HIS ELDER SISTER, JEMIMAH
GECAGA WHOSE RESIGNATION WAS ANNOUNCED IN SAME JUNE 2
GOK PRESS STATEMENT. MUNGAI, WHO HAS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP
WITH PRESIDENT KENYATTA, HAD BEEN GOVERNMENT MINISTER
FROM 1965-1974.

2. PRIOR TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS NOMINATION IT WAS
WIDELY ANTICIPATED MUNGAI WOULD CONTEST JULY 1975 BYE-
ELECTION IN HIS FORMER NAIROBI CONSTITUENCY WHICH FELL
VACANT ON APRIL 19 FOLLOWING DEATH OF JOHNSTONE

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PAGE 02 NAIROB 04487 031309Z

MUTHIORA (NAIROBI 3406).

3. COMMENT: MUNGAI WAS SOUNDLY DEFEATED IN OCTOBER
1974 ELECTIONS AFTER BITTER CAMPAIGN AND WOULD HAVE

FACED STIFF FIGHT HAD HE DECIDED TO RUN. MOREOVER, BECAUSE MUNGAI CLOSELY ASSOCIATED IN PUBLIC MIND WITH PRESIDENT KENYATTA HIS DEFEAT IN BYE-ELECTION WOULD HAVE BEEN VIEWED AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF EROSION OF PRESIDENT'S PRESTIGE.

4. NOMINATION OF MUNGAI EXPECTED TO ADD FUEL TO CURRENT RUMORS OF PENDING CABINET SHAKEUP. ALTHOUGH IN PAST PRESIDENT KENYATTA HAS GENERALLY AVOIDED GIVING PORTFOLIOS TO NOMINATED MPS THERE IS SPECULATION ALREADY THAT MUNGAI MAY SOON GET IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT POST.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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